

Board Meeting Brief

November 24, 2021

GRANDE CACHE
Sheldon Coates
Summitview
Grande Cache Community High
SonRise Christian
The Learning Connection
- Grande Cache

SHIRLEY CAPUTO, VICE CHAIR
Hinton

YVONNE OSHANYK
Hinton

FULHAM
Fulham School

WILDWOOD
Wildwood School

MELODIE BOBILEK
Niton, Wildwood, Evansburg

EDSON
A.H. Dakin
Evergreen
École Westhaven
École Pine Grove Middle
Parkland Composite High
The Learning Connection
- Edson

NITON
Niton Central

EVANSBURG
Evansview
Grand Trunk High
The Learning Connection
- Evansburg

HINTON
Crescent Valley
École Mountain View
Harry Collinge High
The Learning Connection
- Hinton

JASPER
Jasper Elementary
Jasper Junior/Senior High
The Learning Connection
- Jasper

DALE KARPLUK, BOARD CHAIR
Jasper

FIONA FOWLER
Edson/Fulham

JOCelyn PETTITT
Edson/Fulham

OUR VISION
Our school division endeavours to provide each student with the opportunity to fulfill their potential and pursue their dreams.

OUR MISSION
We nurture each student's education and well-being within an inclusive rural learning community.

The Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division is committed to thoughtful governance, strong advocacy for strong public education, building collaborative relationships, and developing solution-focused partnerships to ensure success for GYPSD students and communities.

Board Priority

1

STUDENT LEARNING

The Board received a report from Director of Inclusive Education Erin Murphy, Division Psychologist Crystal Virtanen, and BEST Program Manager Amanda Denton on the comprehensive Mental Health and Inclusive Learning Supports provided across the Division. GYPSD supports students by providing universal, whole-school mental health programming, targeted support for struggling students, and specialized learning supports for students with diverse learning needs.

The Board Chair recognized that last week was Bullying Awareness Week across the province and that the mental-emotional health and psychological safety of students are crucial to their ability to learn and to want to attend school. The theme for 2021, [*Learn Where to Turn to For Help*](#), draws attention to the many anti-bullying, bullying awareness resources and supports Alberta Education provides to schools that add to the activities and processes GYPSD schools have in place.

Board Priority

2

TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

The Board received a report from Director of Technology Lyle Lee outlining the work of the Technology Department to ensure every school in the Division is meeting or exceeding the digital needs of staff and students.

The Board approved two important submissions for Alberta Education: the 3 Year Education Plan (3YEP) and the Alberta Education Results Review (AERR) and the Audited Financial Statement.

The combined 3YEP/AERR provides a comprehensive review of the Division's data that shows evidence of growth and identifies areas for targeted support. Results from the Spring 2021 Assurance Measures Report show the Division is either within range or exceeding the provincial average in most of the categories. In the absence of Provincial Standardized Test (PATs and Diploma Exams) Data due to COVID-19, [*GYPSD uses Divisional Screens - which include the 3Rs, the HLAT, and Mathletics*](#) - to provide baseline information that the staff use to inform targeted instruction. Superintendent Lewis thanked Assistant Superintendent (acting) Carra Aschenmeier, her team, and the school administrators for their leadership and contribution to the Division's successes.

The Audited Financial Statements shows that under the Board's direction, GYPSD has managed its funds very well and is in a healthy position to address infrastructure needs that include transportation fleet replacements and school building upgrades. The Board shared its appreciation of the Finance Team led by Secretary-Treasurer, Sean Nicholson and Superintendent Lewis, and their work with school leaders,

Both the [*Audited Financial Statements*](#) and the [*3YEP/AERR*](#) will be submitted to Alberta Education and posted to the GYPSD website at the end of November.

Board Priority

3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Chair Dale Karpluk (Jasper) shared her participation in an introduction to the Teachers' Employment Bargaining Association (TEBA) session for new Board Chairs, and the Trustees' attendance at both the Alberta School Boards Association ([*ASBA*](#)) and Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) Fall General Meetings. ASBA represents the 61 publically funded school jurisdictions in Alberta. At this fall AGM, ASBA passed motions to advocate to the province for:

- improved internet access and connectivity for rural communities
- the right for Boards to retain or move their reserves without needing the Minister of Education's approval
- the addition of Environmental Education outcomes across all grades and curriculums
- increase to Transportation funding
- that stakeholder revisions to the Draft K- Grade 6 curriculum be included and released in a second draft in the Spring of 2022 and that the draft be piloted, field-tested, and reviewed by stakeholder groups for two years

In addition to approving motions on the Audited Financial Statement and the Combined 3YEP/AERR submissions, the Board passed motions to:

- approve the transfer of operating and capital reserve funds
- approve an additional \$1.5 million dollars to the construction of a second gym to the [*school modernization project in Evansburg*](#) - bringing the total Board contribution to \$3 million dollars
- approve Trustees Pettitt (Edson) and Bobilek (Lobstick) to put their names forward to run for positions on the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards (RCASB) Executive during the Fall AGM taking place on December 16th